



MATURE READERS (grades 9-12)

Ang, Audra. **To the People, Food Is Heaven: Stories of Food and Life in a Changing China.** In China, the world's next superpower, life is comfortable for the fortunate few. For others, it's a hand-to-mouth struggle for a full stomach, a place to live, wages for work done, and freedom to speak openly. In a place where few things are more important than food, "Have you eaten yet?" is another way of saying hello.

Cunningham, Darryl. **How to Fake a Moon Landing: Exposing the Myths of Science Denial.** Is hydro-fracking safe? Is climate change real? Did the moon landing actually happen? Author-illustrator Darryl Cunningham looks at these and other hot-button science topics and presents a fact-based, visual assessment of current thinking and research on eight different issues everybody's arguing about.

Gaiman, Neil. **The Ocean at the End of the Lane.** When a middle-aged man returns to his childhood home in Sussex, England for a funeral, he remembers frightening childhood memories relating to the neighbor girl who promised to protect him from the darkness unleashed by a suicide at the pond at the end of their street.

Green, Sally. **Half Bad.** In modern-day England, where witches live alongside humans, Nathan, son of a White witch and the most powerful Black witch, must escape captivity before his seventeenth birthday and receive the gifts that will determine his future.

Rowell, Rainbow. **Eleanor & Park.** Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits – smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. When Eleanor meets Park, you'll remember your own first love – and just how hard it pulled you under.

Simsion, Graeme. **The Rosie Project.** When Don Tillman, a genetics professor, decides it is time to get married, he devises a scientific survey designed to filter out undesirables, calling it the "Wife Project." When Don meets Rosie, she is quickly eliminated as wife material, but he soon discovers that love finds you, not the other way around.

Smith, Andrew. **Winger.** Two years younger than his classmates at a prestigious boarding school, fourteen-year-old Ryan Dean West grapples with living in the dorm for troublemakers, falling for his female best friend who thinks of him as just a kid, and playing wing on the Varsity rugby team with some of his frightening new dorm-mates.

Yang, Gene Luen. **Boxers (Boxers & Saints).** One of the most ambitious graphic novels First Second has ever published. It offers a penetrating insight into not only one of the most controversial episodes of modern Chinese history, but into the very core of our human nature. Gene Luen Yang is rightly called a master of the comics form, and this book will cement that reputation.

The Panda Book Awards 2014-2015

Compiled by the Panda Awards Steering Committee

Every school year, the Panda Steering Committee publicizes lists of highly recommended books for readers in international schools in China. The four reading categories are: Younger Readers (EC3-grade 2); Middle Readers (grades 3-5); Older Readers (grades 6-8); and Mature Readers (grades 9-12). Each list consists of eight to ten titles that were published over the last three years and that span a wide range of genres. Students are encouraged to read as many books as possible and are invited to vote for their favorite book in the weeks after Chinese New Year.

The Panda Book Awards initiative is now in its seventh year and its popularity has grown tremendously. During the first year, five international schools participated in voting. This year, over thirty international schools have joined the initiative, and over 3,500 students cast their votes.

The reading initiative is the responsibility of the Panda Steering Committee, a group of international librarians in China. These professionals volunteer to read, review and discuss book titles submitted by other librarians or students. The goal of the Panda Book Awards initiative is to instill an enduring love of reading and to take students on an exciting reading adventure.

In the fall, the Panda 2014-2015 books should be available at all participating schools. In the meantime, explore the handout and put the Panda titles on your summer reading list. For more details on the Panda reading initiative visit the following websites:

<http://pandabookawards.wikispaces.com>

<http://www.follettinternational.com/pandavoting>



The Panda Book Awards 2014-2015

(Books are listed in alphabetical order by author)



YOUNGER READERS (EC 3-grade 2)

Bell, Cece. **Rabbit & Robot: The Sleepover.** Rabbit is excited about the sleepover he has carefully planned for his friend Robot, but Robot has some different ideas about how things should go.

Brown, Peter. **Mr. Tiger Goes Wild.** Bored with city life and the proper behavior it requires, Mr. Tiger has a wild idea that leads him to discover his true nature.

Daywalt, Drew. **The Day the Crayons Quit.** When Duncan arrives at school one morning, he finds a stack of letters, one from each of his crayons, complaining about how he uses them.

Fleming, Candace. **Oh, No!** A series of animals falls into a deep hole, only to be saved at last by a very large rescuer.

Jeffers, Oliver. **This Moose Belongs to Me.** A young boy learns that moose do not always follow the rules of proper pet behavior.

Mack, Jeff. **The Things I Can Do.** "A Neal Porter Book." A boy shows a book he has made about all of the things he can do for himself, from making his own lunch to fixing his own toys.

Miller, Pat Zietlow. **Sophie's Squash.** Sophie picks out a squash from the market, but instead of letting her mom cook it, she names it Bernice. Sophie brings Bernice everywhere, despite her parents' warnings that Bernice will begin to rot.

Park, Linda Sue. **Xander's Panda Party.** Xander's plan to host a panda party falls through since he is the only panda at the zoo, but when he extends the invitation to all of the bears, complications ensue.

Shannon, George. **Who Put the Cookies in the Cookie Jar?** Shows how many hands all work to provide everything needed to supply all the ingredients needed for cookies. Includes a sugar cookie recipe.

Snicket, Lemony. **The Dark.** Laszlo is afraid of the dark that lives in the same big, creaky house as him, until one night the dark pays him a visit.



MIDDLE READERS (grades 3-5)

Bacigalupi, Paolo. **Zombie Baseball Beatdown.** While practicing for their next baseball game, thirteen-year-old friends Rabi, Miguel, and Joe discover that the nefarious activities of the Delbe, Iowa, meatpacking plant have caused cows to turn into zombies.

Colfer, Chris. **The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell.** Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Flora & Ulysses.** A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora after he was involved in an incident with a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses' superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak.

Gifford, Clive. **Think Again! False Facts Attacked and Myths Busted.** Conspiracy theories, popular trivia, old wives' tales, common misconceptions, misinterpretations and other fallacies are explored to untruth exactly why they are wrong, and how and why they were adopted as fact in the first place.

Greenwald, Tom. **Jack Strong Takes a Stand.** Tired of being forced to participate in sports and take extra lessons and tutoring to become well-rounded in anticipation of college, middle-schooler Jack Strong stages a sit-in on his couch until his parents ease up.

Lee, Jenny. **Elvis and the Underdogs.** All his life Benji, now ten, has been sickly and he has long been targeted by the school bully, but after a seizure Benji gets a therapy dog that is not only big enough to protect him, it can also talk.

Quan, Elizabeth. **Beyond the Moongate: True Stories of 1920s China.** Recounts the experiences of the author and her family who traveled to China from their home in Canada, during the 1920s, to visit their grandmother.

Schwarz, Viviane. **Welcome to Your Awesome Robot.** In a graphic novel story, a child and his adult assistant learn how a simple cardboard box can be turned into a robot costume. Encourages individualizing the robot in creative ways and includes samples of accessories that can be used to make the costume more real and more fun.

Suneby, Elizabeth. **Razia's Ray of Hope: One Girl's Dream of an Education.** Razia dreams of getting an education, but in her small village in Afghanistan, girls haven't been allowed to attend school for many years. When a new girls' school opens in the village, a determined Razia must convince her father and oldest brother that educating her would be best for her, their family and their community.

Yolen, Jane. **Grumbles from the Forest: Fairy Tale Poems with a Twist.** What were all those fairy-tale characters thinking? Jane Yolen and Rebecca Kai Dotlich answer this question in paired poems, with sometimes startling results.



OLDER READERS (grades 6-8)

Grabenstein, Chris. **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library.** In this cross between *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *A Night in the Museum*, Agatha Award winner Chris Grabenstein uses rib-tickling humor to create the perfect tale for his quirky characters.

Hopkins, Deborah. **The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel.** Eel, an orphan, and his best friend Florrie must help Dr. John Snow prove that cholera is spread through water, and not poisonous air, when an epidemic sweeps across their London neighborhood in 1854.

Kiem, Elizabeth. **Dancer, Daughter, Traitor, Spy.** After a harrowing defection to the United States in 1982, Russian teenager Marya and her father settle in Brooklyn, where Marya is drawn into a web of intrigue involving her gift of foresight, her mother's disappearance, and a boy she cannot bring herself to trust.

Legrand, Claire. **The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls.** Practically-perfect twelve-year-old Victoria Wright must lie, sneak, and break the rules when her investigation of the disappearance of her best – and only – friend, Lawrence, reveals dark secrets about her town and the orphanage run by the reclusive Mrs. Cavendish.

Saenz, Benjamin Alire. **Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe.** Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.

Valente, Catherynne M. **The Girl Who Soared Over Fairyland and Cut the Moon in Two.** When September embarks on a new adventure, she is spirited away to the moon, reunited with her friends, and finds herself faced with saving Fairyland from a powerful moon-Yeti.

Van Leeuwen, Joke. **The Day My Father Became a Bush.** Translation of *Toen Mijn Vader een Struik Werd*. A clear-eyed, funny, and off-beat novel about a girl making sense of a baffling world. Toda's father has gone away to fight in the war. Luckily, he's read about camouflage and will be able to hide from the enemy by disguising himself as a bush. Toda is sent to stay with her mother where it'll be safer. Her journey across the border is full of danger and adventure, but she doesn't give up. She has to find her mother.

Vawter, Vince. **Paperboy.** When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend's newspaper route in July, 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.